



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
C BATTERY, 1ST BATTALION, 19TH FIELD ARTILLERY
434TH FIELD ARTILLERY BRIGADE
FORT SILL, OKLAHOMA 73503-6202



3 December 2015

Greetings:

I would like to take the time to wish you all a warm Merry Christmas, Season's Greetings, and Happy Holidays. Holiday breaks are especially important for military members and their families; as they provide a break in training and allow Soldier's to spend time with family and loved ones. Your Soldier will soon be returning home!

Holiday Block Leave starts on December 19, 2015, and ends January 2, 2016. Your Soldier has a return ticket and it is his/her responsibility to make it back on time. If your Soldier fails to return, he/she will be listed as absent without leave (AWOL). This is a violation of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, which carries consequences that will follow them for the rest of their military career and life.

Soldiers may be picked up from Fort Sill in a privately owned vehicle **ONLY** if they are traveling within a 400 mile radius **AND** they are picked up by an immediate family member (ie. Parent, Grandparent, Spouse). In order to pick up your soldier, you must have your vehicle inspected in accordance with the attached checklist.

In the event of a travel related situation that prevents your Soldier from returning as scheduled such as weather delays or cancelled flight, please contact the Battalion Staff Duty at **(580) 442-0461**. You should also contact the Battery First Sergeant or me at (580) 442-1425. Should an emergency arise such as a death in the immediate family, you should notify us through your local American Red Cross office who will in turn contact me.

If your Soldier requires emergency medical care, he/she should go to the closest treatment facility with their identification card. For any routine type medical issues your Soldier must call the TRICARE number (1-888-647-6676) within their specific region. The region designation and corresponding numbers are listed on the Holiday Block Leave contact card provided to your Soldier prior to departing Fort Sill.

If you have any questions, please feel free to e-mail First Sergeant Ortega (ismael.e.ortega.mil@mail.mil) or myself (oswaldo.a.restrepo.mil@mail.mil) or call my office at 580-442-1425 or 580-442-1424. During Holiday Block Leave, the Battery will only be operating during selected days from 0900-1300. If you cannot reach any Battery personnel via phone, you may e-mail me in the event of an emergency. If you are unable to contact myself or the First Sergeant during Holiday Block Leave, please call the Stay-Back Battalion Officer in Charge at 580-442-1300.

The support of family and friends is vital to the success of all Soldiers. Encourage your Soldier to continue training hard in order to achieve the goals they set prior to entering the Army. Have a safe Holiday Season and we look forward to continuing training with your Soldier upon their return.

It is also incumbent upon your Soldier to maintain and improve his or her physical readiness. Your Soldier will be expected to return to Fort Sill in the same state of readiness he or she left in. In addition, your Service Member will be returning for the final Eight weeks of Basic Training. This phase of training is physically demanding and any lapse in physical readiness could impact graduation. Your loved ones' Drill Sergeants will provide your Soldier a plan on how to maintain their current level of fitness. Two weeks of not exercising can quickly undermine four weeks of hard training. Please continue to encourage your Soldier for their choice in joining the U.S. Army and partaking in this honorable profession; and enjoy the much deserved Holiday Break. Additionally, encourage your Soldier not to lose their 'Warrior Spirit' and continue to embrace the Army Values!

In closing, Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas! We look forward to seeing your Soldier soon—and you all on Graduation Day!

Very Respectfully,

OSWALDO A. RESTREPO
1LT, FA
Commanding